

ABSTRACT

An improved strap for the construction of safety harnesses of the type designed to protect against falls provides increased flexibility and comfort. The strap is composed of a tubular sheath of elastic fabric that coaxially surrounds a typical high strength safety strap. The two components of the strap are sized so that the safety strap is longer than the surrounding tubular elastic sheath. This causes the longitudinal compression and thickening of the safety strap which then acts as filler to form a "pillow" from the sheath. This cushions the strap making it more comfortable while the longitudinal compression of the enclosed safety strap increases its flexibility. During a fall the sheath rapidly stretches and the enclosed safety strap elongates to full length to stop the fall in the normal manner of safety straps.